

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME



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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IPF: (1992-1996) \$30 700 000

(RLA/92/G35) - Regional Cooperation to support Global Change Research in
Countries of the Inter-American Institute of Global Change Research

Date of approval by the AC: ^{1/}	16 December 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
Proposed UNDP contribution:	\$2 831 000
Third-party cost sharing:	\$ 235 000
Total UNDP budget:	\$3 066 000

Project background

Global warming, depletion of stratospheric ozone, and other manifestations of increasing global change underscore the pressing need for decision-making based on well-informed policy formulation, if ecologically sustainable economic development is to be achieved. To achieve essential economic development without impairing long-term production of ecological goods and services from national, regional and global ecosystems, policies must be firmly based on information derived from scientific research.

The research needed to develop a global perspective, demands that regional differences in characteristics such as biogeography and climate be taken into consideration. The goal of a "practical forecasting capacity" regarding global environmental change requires that this capacity be developed for distinct subcontinental regions. The System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) will be a world-encompassing system of actual potential Regional Research Networks. START will promote the exchange of information and discussion of scientific priorities both between the different Research Networks and between the Networks and other IGBP projects.

The development of each Regional Research Network's activities will be designed to meet the unique research needs of each region. The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), founded by the scientific community of the Americas, is structured as a network of national Research Centres conducting and sponsoring basic research on global change processes which are unique or of special importance to the region. Information from scientific investigations by the IAI's collaborating Research Centres will fuel policy-making both at the national and regional levels in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as provide valuable input to the development of global policies and conventions.

^{1/} This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

As part of its long-term strategy of institutional development, the IAI has identified three specific areas to be strengthened in order to achieve a uniform regional research capability regarding global change: (1) training of scientists and technicians; (2) data processing and exchange systems; and (3) standardized methodologies for the collection and processing of data.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) improve and expand scientific and technical professional capabilities in the Research Centres of IAI countries in areas relevant to global change research; (b) establish a minimum uniform data processing capability in each Research Centre as well as data exchange systems in the region; and (c) develop standardized methodologies for the collection and processing of basic data relevant to global change research.

Project activities will include: (a) engaging 40 scientists from the region in global change research projects; (b) enhancement of access by up to ten participating institutions to current relevant scientific and technical literature; (c) training of technicians from participating institutions in relevant areas of data handling and exchange; (d) equipping 15 participating institutions with a minimum compatible data processing capability, with special emphasis on geo-referenced data processing equipment and training in its use; (e) linking the participating institutions together and with selected institutions in the United States and Canada by means of a data exchange system; (f) devising standard methods on the interpretation of satellite data on land-use and land-use change relevant to global change research.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 60 man-months of international personnel; administrative support and associated travel costs; subcontracts; 70 man-months of fellowships and two training courses; 15 units of computer equipment for geographic data processing; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	\$
Personnel	916 500
Subcontract	335 000
Training	540 500
Equipment	1 200 000
Miscellaneous	74 000
Total	<u>3 066 000</u>

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